IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 5, and 10-11 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for classifying network components of a packet-oriented network, comprising:

determining, from a central management component, whether a network component is a management-capable network component; and

if the network component is a management-capable network component, ~~using services~~determining whether the network component supports layer 3 of the OSI reference model and determining whether data packets have already been forwarded ~~provided~~ in the past ~~by~~between the interfaces of the management-capable network component in order to classify the management-capable network component.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein

a management agent unit is provided in each network component that is a management-capable network component, and

the management agent unit enables communication between the central management component and the management-capable network component.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein communication between the central management component and the management agent unit takes place according to an SNMP protocol.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the network component is classified as a host, a router or a switch.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, further comprising:

~~determining whether the network component supports layer 3 of the OSI reference model;~~

~~determining whether data packets have already been forwarded between interfaces of the network component; and~~

if the network component supports layer 3 and data packets have already been forwarded, classifying the network component as a router.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein

if the network component does not support layer 3 and/or the network component has not already forwarded data packets, then ports of the network component are counted,

if the number of ports is greater than 1, the network component is classified as a switch, and

if the number of ports is not greater than 1, then the network component is classified as a host.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein

the network component has a management information base with managed objects, and

whether the network component supports layer 3 and whether data packets have already been forwarded are determined by an interrogation of the managed objects.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the management information base is administered by a management agent unit provided in the network component.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising, if the network component is not a management-capable network component, presuming that the network component is a host.

10. (Currently Amended) A central management component, comprising:

an inquiry unit to determine, whether a network component is a management-capable network component; and

a classification unit to determine whether the network component supports layer 3 of the OSI reference model and determine whether data packets have already been forwarded~~use services provided~~ in the past ~~by~~between the interfaces of the management-capable network component in order to classify the management-capable network component, if the network component is a management-capable network component.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program to control a processor to perform a method for classifying network components of a packet-oriented network, the method comprising:

determining, from a central management component, whether a network component is a management-capable network component; and

if the network component is a management-capable network component, ~~using services~~determining whether the network component supports layer 3 of the OSI reference model and determining whether data packets have already been forwarded ~~provided~~ in the past ~~by~~between the interfaces of the management-capable network component in order to classify the management-capable network component.